

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DPW-01 AID-05 /068 W
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R 211025Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9135

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, CD

SUBJ: PUBLIC TRIAL OF 1973 ALLEGED PLOTTERS ANNOUNCED

REFS: FORT LAMY 1071; 1025; 1016 (OF 1973); NDJAMENA A-3
OF FEB 10 (NOTAL)

1. FEB 18 EDITION WEEKLY CANARD DECHAINE ANNOUNCED FEB 15 MINISTRY JUSTICE COMMUNIQUE THAT FORMER HEAD CHADIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT KALTOUMA N'GUEMBANG (ARRESTED JUNE 1973) WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL FEB 24 ON CHARGES OF "PLOTING TO OVERTHROW THE PRESENT POLITICAL REGIME." THIRTY-ONE CO-PLOTTERS, 11 MEN AND 20 WOMEN, WILL ANSWER TO SAME CHARGE. NO MENTION MADE, HOWEVER, OF FORMER GOC ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FELIX MALLOUM WHOSE ARREST AT SAME TIME AS N'GUEMBANG WAS DOMINANT FEATURE OF 1973 ALLEGED PLOT.

2. BRIEF NEWSPAPER REPORT AT PAINS TO STRESS OPENNESS OF TRIAL, STATING THAT PUBLIC, CHADIANS AND FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING FOREIGN
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JOURNALISTS, ARE INVITED TO BE PRESENT.

3. COMMENT: NO CONSENSUS LOCALLY EVEN NOW AS TO SPECIFIC OFFENSE OF N'GUEMBANG WHICH LEAD TO HER 1973 FALL FROM GRACE SHORTLY AFTER HER INVESTITURE AS HEAD WOMEN'S UNIT, PTT, FORMER SOLE POLITICAL PARTY. N'GUEMBANG APPARENTLY ABLE AND INTELLIGENT WOMAN WHO TOOK HER NEW POSITION SERIOUSLY AS MENAS IMPROVING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CHAD JUST AT MOMENT WHEN PRESIDENT ABOUT TO INAUGURATE AUTHENTICITY CAMPAIGN WHICH WOULD IN PART STRESS TRADITIONAL SUBSERVIENCE CHADIAN WOMEN. PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL CONVICTION ON SUBJECT SUCCINCTLY CONVEYED BY HIS REMARK AT PRESS CONFERENCE LAST FALL THAT HIS WIFE ILLITERATE AND HE LIKED HER THAT WAY. STRESS ON OPENNESS OF TRIAL SEEMS TO BE REACTION CRITICISM IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA AND BY ORGANIZATIONS (SUCH AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL) REGARDING GOC TREATMENT POLITICAL PRISONERS. UNLESS THIS OR FUTURE PUBLIC TRIALS DEAL WITH CASES SUCH AS THAT OF MALLOUM, FORMER MINISTER PLAN BANGUI, BDT DIRGEN DIGUEMBAYE, AND OTHERS ONCE PROMINENT AND POWERFUL IN GOC CIRCLES, GOC CAN BE ASSUCED WITH PROBABLE JUSTICE OF USING N'GUEMBANG CASE SIMPLY AS WHITEWASH OF SYSTEM.
LITTLE

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